

5/15/15 Update on Sirenusa Condo Methyl Bromide Release, Cruz Bay, St. John

On 5/11/15 EPA ERT and SERAS contractor mobed to the Site to continue work on J lower. The OSC arrived on Site on 5/14/15. The work involves ventilation on the unit with high velocity fans and the use of carbon absorption units. A 24-hour sampling event will be conducted in “J” lower on 5/16-17. Additional Summa grab samples were taken this week of dry wall vapor space and ceiling void spaces. Results of the previous round of 24-hour Summa samples taken on 5/1-2 revealed that the concentration of Methyl Bromide was still above the Reference Concentration (RfC) of 1.3 ppbv. It is expected that the preliminary results for the samples that will be taken on 5/16-17 will be available early next week.

On 5/1 RPB participated on a conference call with representatives from ATSDR, VI DPNR and VI DOH, to discuss using the RfC of 1.3 ppbv as the clearance value for the Siranusa units. The discussion involved an explanation by ATSDR as to how the RfC was derived. DOH and DPNR have indicated that they intend on using 1.3 ppbv as the clearance value for the units. The ultimate decision to clear the individual units will be a joint decision between DOH and DPNR.

The REOC continues working with EPA Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch to evaluate options for management of existing stocks of the fumigant. Stocks of Methyl Bromide have been identified at facilities on St. Thomas and St. Croix, consisting of one cylinder at each of two facilities. On 4/30 CID completed over-packing of the cylinders on both St. Thomas and St. Croix. CID/DOJ are currently arranging for the transport of the containers off island.

Resources on-site. 1 OSC, 1 EPA ERT, 2 SERAS Contractors

R2 REOC remains the point of contact for all EPA’s activities related to this incident.

EPA is still working cooperatively with DPNR, EPA CID, DOJ, ATSDR, USVI DOH and the condo complex management company.